



### AUGMENTED STAFFING

The following resources were staffed by this Department on July 4, 2003:

- Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Teams were designated.
- The Information Management Division provided Command and Control staff support July 4 through July 6.
- All water tenders for 24 hours.
- All unstaffed patrols for 24 hours.
- Helitenders at Fire Station 87 and the Pacoima Warehouse for 24 hours.
- An additional fire ship at Camp 9 for 24 hours.
- Copter 10 Command Ship staffed for 24 hours.
- Five dozers staged at Fire Stations 64, 124, 125, 129, and the Pacoima Warehouse.
- Incident Management Teams 3A/3B were on standby.

### FIRE CAMP CREW STAFFING

- Twenty-nine ground crews and 8 superintendents (0700 to 1700 hours).
- Twenty ground crews and 6 superintendents (1700 to 0800 hours).

### LIFEGUARD DIVISION

- Assigned 1 additional paramedic to the Catalina Isthmus July 4, 5, and 6.
- All sections provided extended staffing hours on rescue boats and for beach patrol on July 4 and permitted firework display program coverage.
- Section headquarters augmented staffing during evening hours.
- Staffed Dive Team #1 on July 4.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Special emphasis was placed once again on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display.

The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2003:

- Conducted the Twelfth Annual “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” with the theme of “*Attend a Professional Fireworks Display.*” All elementary schools within Los Angeles County were invited to participate and over 1,000 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 27, 2003 to announce the six winners for the “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” and to award prizes to each winner. John Tennant, California State Fire Marshal, attended the press conference.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations on the potential dangers of fireworks including Chief Freeman’s live appearance on KTLA’s Morning News Show to promote fireworks safety.
- On June 26, 2003, the Professional Fireworks Show Hotline, 888-654-FIRE, was placed in operation to provide information in English and Spanish on the location of professional fireworks shows.
- On June 26, 2003, Public Affairs posted public safety information regarding the Fourth of July on two web sites, [www.lacofd.org](http://www.lacofd.org) and [www.safeJuly4th.org](http://www.safeJuly4th.org). The web site included a list for the public of all the professional fireworks shows in Los Angeles County. Other information included was a list of which cities in Los Angeles County allowed *Safe and Sane* fireworks and general Fourth of July safety tips.

## FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Reviewed and approved 49 pyrotechnic displays and required a Fire Safety Officer at each location.
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- The Arson/Fire Investigation Unit assisted several law and fire agencies in the arrest of five individuals and the confiscation of approximately 45 tons of illegal fireworks.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 7, 2003  
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## CONCLUSION

The number of fireworks related incidents remain the same as 2002. The dollar loss increased from \$108,550 in 2002 to \$116,00 in 2003. Injuries decreased by two. The Department will be forwarding to your Honorable Board a more comprehensive report during the month of August that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2003. This 30-day report is a truer reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

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